

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 01987 011920Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 EB-08 OMB-01 TRSE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00
NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 DRC-01
/092 W

-----119574 011924Z /64/46

P R 011335Z FEB 78
FM AMEMBASSY ROME
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 313
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY RABAT
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY VIENNA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 1987

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y FOR EO, TAGS AN SUBJECT LINE ONLY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, IT EG
SUBJECT: SADAT'S STOPOVER IN ROME

1. MFA JAN. 31 CONFIRMED PRESS REPORTS THAT EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT
SADAT WILL MAKE ROME LAST STOP OF FORTH-COMING TRIP. HE IS
EXPECTED TO ARRIVE FEB. 13 (DATE MAY SLIP TO FEB. 14) FOR
BRIEF STOP DURING WHICH HE WOULD PAY COURTESY CALL ON PRESIDENT
LEONE AND MEET WITH PRIME MINISTER ANDREOTTI. ACCORDING TO
PRESS REPORTS, APPARENTLY BASED ON MFA BRIEFING, ITALIANS,
RECALLING PRESIDENT LEONE'S STATEMENT ON SADAT INITIATIVE
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LAST NOVEMBER, VIEW HIS DECISION TO COME AS EVIDENCE OF
EGYPT'S APPRECIATION OF ITALY'S MIDDLE EAST POLICY.

2. COMMENT: GIVEN GOI SYMPATHY FOR SADAT AND ITALY'S POLITICAL
AND ECONOMIC ORIENTATION TOWARD ARAB WORLD (AND DESPITE MFA
PROTESTATIONS THAT GOI TAKES MIDDLE-OF-THE-ROAD POSITION IN
ARAB-ISRAELI QUESTIONS), SADAT WILL BE WARMLY RECEIVED HERE.

ITALIANS DEMONSTRATED THEIR SYMPATHY FOR SADAT LAST NOVEMBER WHEN, IN DEPARTURE FROM THEIR NORMAL PRACTICE, THEY ISSUED POSITIVE STATEMENT ON SADAT INITIATIVE (WITHIN HOURS OF REPRESENTATION BY DCM TO FOREIGN MINISTER) WITHOUT WAITING FOR EC CONSULATATIONS. GOI IS NOT, OF COURSE, IN POSITION TO DO MUCH FOR SADAT, EXCEPT BY CONTINUING SYMPATHETIC POLICY IN EC CONTEXT, AND WE ASSUME THAT MAJOR ITEM ON SADAT'S AGENDA IN ROME WILL BE MEETING WITH POPE ALTHOUGH AS YET WE HAVE NO INFORMATION ABOUT VATICAN APPOINTMENT. GARDNER

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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